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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,691	03/29/2004	Goro Asai	118522	1199
25944	7590	01/11/2007	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			GOINS, DAVETTA WOODS	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2612
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/11/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/810,691	ASAI, GORO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Davetta W. Goins	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 3-10, 13 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 11, 15, 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 3-10, 13, 14 are allowed.
2. Claim 2, 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Veldman (US Pat. 7,093,965 B2).

In reference to claims 1, 16, Veldman discloses the claimed component that reduces infrared light of a light and that transmits the light, which is met by a lighting device, from illumination device 24, within a housing of a vehicle which reduces the amount of infrared radiation absorbed by a lens of the lighting device, thereby reducing the temperature of the lens during operation of the lighting device. A portion of the infrared radiation emitted from the illumination source may be transmitted through the reflector of the present invention and/or a

portion of the infrared radiation emitted from the illumination source may be reflected away from the lens, in order to "reduce the amount of infrared" radiation being absorbed by the lens. The present invention has limits or reduces any deformation, discoloration and/or burning of the lens and may allow for increased light output while maintaining the lens at or below its temperature limits (col. 9, lines 45-67; col. 10, lines 1-9). The lens 30 transmits the light from the illumination device 24; the lens 30 may be coated with a chemical to reflect the radiation within the housing (col. 7, lines 43-60). Although Veldman does not specifically disclose the claimed bulb that emits a flashing light as a result of operation of a turn switch or hazard switch of the vehicle, he does disclose that the light, disclosed in the application, may be that of turn signal lights of a vehicle. Since Veldman already discloses a system that is used to reduce the infrared of light from a vehicle and the light may be that of a turn signal, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a lamp emitting a flashing light as a result of operation of a turn switch or hazard switch of the vehicle.

5. Claims 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stam et al. (US Pat. 6,774,988 B2).

In reference to claims 11, 15, Stam discloses the claimed imaging unit that is sensitive to infrared light and images a vehicle size zone, and a polarized filter disposed at a position to block infrared light received by the imaging unit, which is met by a vehicle that includes an imaging unit that captures images of nearby vehicles with an onboard optical system 105. The light from the captured nearby vehicles (taillight and headlamp light) by the optical system 105 (col. 6, lines

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61-67; col. 7, lines 1-35). An infrared blocking spectral filter material (not shown) is positioned in front of the optical system, or elsewhere within the optical system, to prevent light rays of wavelengths greater than about 680 nm from being projected onto the pixel array (col. 11, lines 9-40). Since Stam discloses an infrared blocking material that's placed on the optical system as well as disclosing an imaging system that captures images of nearby vehicles with their headlamps and/or taillights included, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to continuously filter any light that may be emitted from a blinking turn signal or hazard light from nearby vehicles to protect the imaging device.

6. The prior art of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure as follows. Moisel (US Pat. 7,132,654 B2) disclosing a vehicle imaging system.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davetta W. Goins whose telephone number is 571-272-2957. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri with every other Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Wu can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Davetta W. Goins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2612

Davetta W. Goins

D.W.G.

January 8, 2007